MANIPUR STATE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1947

Whereas it is expedient to enact a law for the governance of the Manipur state, His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur is pleased to enact as follows:

Chapter I

1. Title: This act shall be called the Manipur State Constitution Act 1947.

2. Extent and Application: This Act shall extend to the whole of the Manipur State inclusive of the Hill Areas saving that it shall not apply in any matter where a specific reservation of powers is made to any Authority in the Hills under the provisions of the Manipur State Hill (Administration Regulation 1947).

3. Government of the State by His Highness the Maharajah: The territories for the time being and hereafter vested in the Maharajah are governed by and in the name of the Maharajah. All rights, authority and jurisdiction which appertain or are
incidental to the Government of such territories are exercisable by the Maharajah subject to the provision of this Act.

4. **Successor:** – Succession to the throne shall be governed by the Law of Primogeniture provided that the heir must be the legitimate son of a marriage recognized by the Council of Ministers. In the event of failure of theirs in the direct male line, His Highness the Maharajah shall, after consultation with the Council of Ministers and the Assembly, designate his heir.

5. **Attainment of Majority:** – The Maharajah or his heir shall be taken to attain majority at the age of 1 year.

6. **Council of Regency:** – (a) Where by reason of the Maharajah being a minor or where by reason of any mental defect or grave bodily sickness as a result of which the Maharajah becomes permanently incapable of exercising his powers, the Council of Ministers shall take steps to set up a Council of Regency which shall exercise those powers in the State and shall continue in office for such time as the Council may determine.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Section (a) above, the Maharajah in consultation with Council of Ministers may at any time or for any
reason which may appear suitable, set up a Council of Regency to exercise his functions.

(c) A Council of Regency set up under Sub-Section (a) and (b) above, may comprise one or more persons as may seem desirable. The Regent or Council of Regency shall before taking office be required to take an Oath before the State Assembly to be loyal to the state and to observe faithfully the Constitution and Laws.

(d) Where in any event it shall be necessary to set up a Council of Regency either for the reasons laid down in Sub-section (a) and (b) above or for any other reason or where for any reason the Maharajah has become incapable of exercising his powers before such regency can be set up, the Council of Ministers shall take whatever steps may be necessary for the Governance of the State till such time as the Regency is created.

7. Failure of Heir and Disputed Succession: – (a) In the event of failure of Heirs in the direct male line and the failure of the Maharajah to designate his Heir under section 4 above, a joint extraordinary session of the State Assembly and the Council of Ministers shall immediately be convened and shall remain in closed and continuous session till it shall have determined by a 75% majority of the members
present and voting, the person to whom the throne shall pass.

(b) Where for any reason the succession to the throne is disputed, the Council of Ministers shall, on the death of the Ruler, take such steps as may immediately be necessary for the good governance of the State and shall refer the matter under dispute to the Chief Court for decision. Where any party is aggrieved by the decision of the Chief Court an appeal shall lie to such authority as may be determined hereafter.

8. The Maharajah's Prerogatives: – (a) All family matters which are the Maharajah's sole concern as head of the Ruling family, all matters which are his sole concern as the Defender of faith and all matters connected with Titles, Honours and Palace ceremonials shall be deemed to fall within the Maharajah's personal prerogative and in such matters the Maharajah shall exercise full discretion subject to the provisions of the Constitution and the Laws of the State.

The Maharajah's prerogative shall not, however, be taken to comprise any matter wherein the legitimate interests of the State administration or a civil right sustainable in a court of law is involved. It will be within the prerogative of the Maharajah to remit
punishment and pardon offenders subject to the provisions of the Manipur State Courts Act provided that this prerogative shall not prejudice the right of any individual to compensation.

(b) It shall be the prerogative of the maharajah and the maharani that neither may be made answerable at law or subject to any legal proceeding in the state courts. Their persons and property shall be inviolable.

(c) notwithstanding section 8(b) above, it shall be lawful for the state council in consultation with the chief court to draw up a statement of charges against the Maharajah or the Maharani where it is proved beyond all possible doubt that the Maharaja or the Maharani has been guilty of murder or any other heinous offence or of any extreme political crime against the provisions of the constitution.

(d) On a statement of charges being drawn up under clause (c) above, the council shall present it before the maharajah or the maharani and require satisfaction. Should satisfaction be not forthcoming the council may refer the matter to such authority as may be determine hereafter.
Chapter II

Definitions

9. In this act and the rules issued there under unless there is something repugnant to the subject or the context:
(a) State shall mean the Manipur state comprising the whole territory of Manipur as delineated in the maps of the survey of India current at the date of this enactment.
(b) The maharajah means his highness the maharajah of Manipur, the constitutional head of the state.
(c) Chief Minister means the officer entrusted with the chief executive functions of the state.
(d) Minister means a member of the council of ministers appointed under this act by name or by virtue of his office to administer certain branches of the state administration and to perform the duties and exercise the power imposed and conferred upon a minister by this act and the rules framed there under:
(e) Council means the state council of ministers constituted under this act.
(f) Assembly means the state assembly as constituted under this act.
(g) Gazette means the official journal of the state by means of which important orders, notices, communiqués, etc. are published.

(h) Speaker means the president of the assembly and includes the deputy speaker in the absence of the speaker or in the absence of both a member voted to the chair.

(i) Civil list means the appropriation of funds for the expenses of the ruling family and the privy purse of the rules.

(j) Privy purse means such portion of the civil list as is appropriated exclusively for the personal expenses of the maharajah.

(k) Revenue includes all receipts of the state from state assets, from all lands, forests, taxes, fines, penalties, forfeitures, escheats, lapse and other sources.

(l) Rules means any rule issued under this act.

(m) Fundamental rights shall mean those rights which the state people shall enjoy as of right under this act.

(n) The pronoun “he” and its derivatives are used of any person whether male or female.
Chapter III

The Executive

10. Council of ministers: (a) subject to the provisions of this act and subject also to the provisions of the rules for the administration of the Manipur state the executive authority of the state is delegated to and shall vest in the council of ministers.

(b) where under this act or the rules for the administration of the state, it is requisite that the approval of the maharajah shall be taken to any measure, the chief minister shall seek the approval of the maharajah in person or in writing and shall obtain the maharajah’s orders thereon. Should in any case the maharajah’s approval be withheld, the maharajah shall be pleased to inform the reasons for withholding such approval in writing to the council.

(c) The council of ministers shall consist of the chief minister and six other ministers.

(d) The six ministers on the council shall be elected by the state assembly subject to the proviso of the state elected in such manner as shall be laid down in the rules of business of the state assembly.
(e) The chief minister shall be appointed by the maharajah in consultation with the elected ministers on the council.

(f) The Chief Minister and Ministers shall receive letters of appointment over the seal of Maharajah.

(g) The Chief Minister in consultation which the Ministers shall allot portfolios.

11. The Chief Minister shall be the President of the Council and the Vice-President shall be appointed by the Council.

12. The Council of Ministers shall have a common seal and shall be jointly responsible to the Maharajah for the administration of the State.

13. The Council of Ministers and the Ministers individually shall exercise such powers and functions as may be assigned to them by or under this Act or by or under the Rules for the Administration of the State.

14. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business as a meeting of the Council shall not be less than three excluding the president.

15. The Chief Minister and Ministers shall, on taking office, swear an oath of loyalty and allegiance to the Maharajah in the following form:

   "I (Name of Minister) have been appointed as a Member of the Manipur State Council do solemnly swear that I will be loyal and faithful and bear true
allegiance to the Maharajah his heirs and successors and that I will faithfully discharge the duties laid on me under this Act”.

16. A Minister of the Council shall not be removable from office except in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV below:

Chapter IV

The State Assembly

17. There shall be constituted a State Assembly. The Assembly shall be elected for a period of three years and shall comprise Representatives freely elected by the people on an adult franchise and on the principle of Joint Electorate. Elections shall be in such manner and by such franchise as may be laid down under the Rules for the elections to the State Assembly provided always that the Representatives returnable from General, Hill and Mahamadan Constituencies shall be in the ratios of 30 : 18 : 3 respectively with an additional two seats for the Representatives of Educational and commercial interests.
18. The State Assembly may debate all matters concerning the Government and well being of the State which, in the opinion of five Members of the Assembly, it is in the public interest to debate. The Assembly shall tender such advice to the Council of Ministers in any matter in which a majority of the Members present, are agreed on the advice which shall be tendered provided that no matter touching the Maharajah's Prerogative shall be debated and provided that the Maharajah may on the advice of the Council, veto debate on any matter where such course shall in the public interest be necessary.

19. The State Assembly shall not tender advice to the Council on any matter which is of primary concern to the Hill people unless such advice has the support of a majority of the Hill Representatives in the Assembly.

20. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Assembly may make rules for regulating its proceedings and the conduct of Business.

21. Where in any case it is required to pass a vote of no confidence against a Minister of the Council for his individual acts, a motion of no confidence,
signed by not less than ten members of the Assembly and laying out in detail, the facts giving rise to the motion, may with the permission of the Speaker of the Assembly be moved. If such motion shall receive the support of at least 75% of the Members present and voting, it shall be forwarded through the Chief Minister to the Maharajah, who, unless there appear strong and valid reasons to the contrary which shall be recorded in writing, shall after consultation with the Chief Minister require the Minister against whom the motion has been passed to resign.

22. Where in any case the State Council or the Maharajah is in the special circumstances of any case unable to accept the advice of the Assembly, the Maharajah or the Council as the case may be shall communicated in writing the reason which have led to such course and shall giver facilities for personal discussion of the matter with a representative or representatives deputed by the Assembly.

23. Subject to the provisions of this Act and to Rules framed under it for the disposal of the Assembly business, there shall be Freedom of Speech in the Assembly and no member shall be liable to any
proceedings in any court in respect of any speech or vote given by him in the Assembly or a committee thereof and no person shall be liable in respect of any publication by or under the authority of the Assembly of any report, paper, vote or proceedings.

24. No member of the Assembly shall be liable to arrest or detention in prison under a Civil process:

(a) If he is a member of the Assembly, during the continuance of the Assembly.

(b) If he is a member of any committee of the Assembly, during the continuance of the meeting of the Committee.

25. The elected Ministers, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and members of the Assembly shall receive such emoluments as may be determined from time to time by the Assembly.
Chapter V

The Law Making Authority

26. The Law Making Authority in the State shall consist of the Maharajah in Council in collaboration with the State Assembly acting under Section 18, above.

27. When the Council or the Assembly consider that a law should be enacted the Council shall cause a Bill to be drafted, which shall be laid before the Assembly and a reasonable time shall be given for consideration thereof. The Council shall then cause to be made such alterations or amendments as may be deemed necessary in the light of the advice tendered by the Assembly and the Chief Minister shall submit the Bill in its final form for the assent of the Maharajah.

28. On the receipt of the Maharajah's Assent the Bill shall be published in the State Gazette and shall become an Act having the force of law.

29. Should the Maharajah in any case withhold his Assent to a Bill, that Bill shall lapse as if it had not
30. Where the Assent of the Maharajah to any Bill is withheld, the Council may cause the same Bill to be introduced in the next session of the Assembly and if passed without amendment by a 75% majority of the Assembly, the Bill shall be certified over the Seal of the Council and shall become law.

31. Nothing in this Chapter shall be deemed to derogate from the absolute right of the Maharajah in Council to promulgate, in emergency cases, orders having the force of the law without previous reference to the Assembly where the public interest in their opinion demands that such order shall be promulgated provided that the first opportunity shall be taken of laying the order before the Assembly for consideration. Any such order shall not have the force of law for a period of more than six months.
Chapter VI

Finance

32. The Revenue of the State and such other receipts as may accrue from whatever source, less such reasonable percentage of the total real Revenue as may be reserved for the Civil List are placed at the disposal of the Council for expenditure on the Government of the State in the manner prescribed by the State Account Rules saving that in every year a sum representing not less than 17% of the average real revenue of the State for the preceding three years shall be allocated for expenditure on the welfare and administration of the Hill people.

33. The Minister in charge of Finance shall prepare an Annual Budget showing the estimated receipts and expenditure for the ensuing year classified under the prescribed heads of account and shall submit it to that Assembly within fifteen days of its meeting for the Budget session along with a statement of account for the previous year.

34. The Assembly shall after considering the Budget, submit it with their recommendation to the Council, who, having made such modifications as may be deemed necessary shall submit it to the Maharajah for approval. Where any delay occurs in the granting of Assent to the Budget by the
Maharajah and where such Assent has not been obtained by the first day of the financial year, provisional effect shall be given to the Budget as passed by the Assembly and funds shall be drawn against its provisions as if it had received Assent.

35. The Maharajah's Civil List shall be fixed at a figure equal to 10% of the real revenues of the State over the preceding three years, provided that no extraordinary revenues shall be taken into account when determining this amount and provided that no State revenue in excess of Rupees twenty lakhs shall be taken into account in anyone year. The appropriation to the Maharajah's Civil List shall be non-votable and shall not be the subject of debate in the Assembly.

36. No tax whatsoever shall be shown in the budget and no tax shall be collected by any officer of the State or by any person unless such tax has been imposed by due process of Law.

37 (a) There shall be a State Auditor who shall be appointed by the Maharajah in Council on a nomination to be made by the Comptroller of Audit, Assam or such other officer as may be deemed suitable. Such nominee shall be employed on contract for a period of not less than five years and shall be removable only by the Maharajah in Council in consultation with the authority making the nomination.
(b) The conditions of Service of the State Auditor shall be such as may be prescribed by the Maharajah in Council provided always that he shall not be eligible for any office of profit in the State after his retirement.

(C) The Auditor shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be laid down in the State Account Rules.

Chapter VII

Hill People

38. The Council shall be responsible for the welfare and the good administration of the Hill people of the State and shall provide such funds for this purpose as may, subject to the provision of Section 32 above, be deemed necessary, provided that the local authorities in the Hills shall exercise such powers of Local Self Government as may be laid down in the Manipur State Hill (Administration) Regulation, 1947.

Chapter VIII

The Services

39. The Council shall issue Rules regulating the conditions of Service in the Departments of the State.

40. A Manipur State Appointments Board shall be constituted and the Council shall issue Rules regulating the
constitution, functions and procedure of the Board. The Board shall consist of not less than three members, one of whom must be a Hillman and a Chairman and shall be the final authority in all matters connected with appointments and promotions to the State Service except in so far as specific powers may be reserved under this Act or the Rules for the Administration of the State.

Chapter IX

The Judicature

41 (a) There shall be a complete separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

(b) The judicature of the State shall be as laid down in the Manipur State Courts Act, 1947.

42. The Chief Justice of the State and two Puisne Judges shall be appointed by the Maharajah in Council under the Royal Seal and shall hold office until the age of 65 years provided that:

(a) A Judge may resign his office.
(b) A Judge may be removed from his office by the Maharajah in Council only on the grounds of misbehaviour or of infirmity of body or mind.

43. A person shall not be appointed as a Judge of the Chief Court unless he:
(a) be a graduate in law and has held Judicial Office at least for Five years;
(b) is a barrister qualified in England of five years' standing, or
(c) has for at least five years held Judicial Office in British India in a post not inferior to that of a Subordinate Judge, or
(d) has for at least a period of ten years been a pleader of any High Court or of the Manipur Chief Court, or
(e) be person recognised as having a special capacity for the exercise of Judicial functions.

Chapter X

Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizenship

44. All citizens shall be equal before the law. Titles and other privileges of birth shall not be recognised in the eyes of law.

45. The liberty of the individual shall be guaranteed. No person may be subjected to any judicial interrogation or placed under arrest or be in any other way deprived of his liberty save as provided by law.

46. No person shall be tried save by a competent Court.

47. No person may be tried except by a competent Court who shall give full opportunity to such person to defend himself by all means.

48. All penalties shall be as determined by law.
49. Capital punishment may not be inflicted for purely politi-
cal crimes.

50. No citizen may be banished from the State, expelled
from one part of the country to another, and obliged to
reside in a specific place save in such cases as may be
expressly determined by law.

51. Every dwelling shall be inviolable save under express
provision of law.

52. There shall be guaranteed to all people, justice, social,
economic and political; equality of status, of opportunity
and before the law; freedom of thought, expression of belief,
faith, worship, vocation, association, and action, subject to
law and public morality.

53. The practice of Arts and Sciences shall be unrestricted
and shall enjoy the protection and support of the State.

54. Without any prejudice to the communities concerned,
public institutions shall be opened to all the citizens of the
State.

55(a) All officials of the State or of a local Government
shall be answerable before the law for their individual and
unlawful actions.

(b) Where damage is caused to an individual by the act
of an official of the State or an official of a Local
Government, such individual may sue the State before the
Chief Court and may seek redress save where such damage
has been caused by a bonafide act of a State servant in pursuance of a policy duly laid down by a Competent Authority.

Chapter XI

General Clauses

56. Any provision of this Act may be subject to amendment by the Maharajah in Council provided that such amendment is laid before the Assembly and receives the support of at least 80% of the members of the State Assembly present and voting, when such amendment is debated.

57. Where in any case circumstances arise which prevent the proper operation in law or spirit of this Constitution Act, the Council may at their discretion refer the matter for decision to such authority outside the State as may be decided hereafter and the decision of that authority shall be binding.

58. The Court language of the State shall be Manipuri or English.

Bodh Chandra Singh
MAHARAJAH OF MANIPUR
Appendix-II

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST MANIPUR
STATE ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 18, 1948

PROCLAMATION OF HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA
BODHCHANDRA
Members of the Manipur State Assembly Present

Introduction

This is the first time I as a Representative of Manipur
Crown and Monarchy, unbroken and safeguarded with the
blood of my forefathers for about two thousand years,
address the First Assembly of the Manipur State on this historic
day following the modern practice and British style. I consider
myself fortunate to see the birth of an Assembly in the State
during my time and again I feel proud to be able to place 6n
record and make it known to the rest of India that though
painted otherwise abroad, my state for the first time in India
has, just as the Sun rises earlier in the east, taken the lead in
the direction of democratic government, based on adult
franchise and joint electorate in the line of which India is
soon following. I take more pride in that though in countries
like England; responsible government has been the outcome
of the blood of so many persons, there has been in my state
no bloodshed since I took the initiative here.
The New Constitution

While I have been all along anxious to accord responsible government, I have been sincerely watching as to the practicability or impracticability of the Constitution Act I now bring to the mind of the people that I had transferred my powers and responsibilities other than those of a Constitutional Ruler to the State Council since 1st July 1947 before the lapse of the British paramountcy and since then, I have already remained as a Constitutional Ruler. But most of the people innocent as they are, have been imputing to me the actions of the Council. My only earnest wish is to see a more prosperous Manipur. Though the literacy is below five per cent, you have had the best opportunities, as afforded by a responsible government to serve your country to the fullest extent you desire with toleration and concord to make Manipur a greater Manipur.

Aim

Administrators and citizens of the State, in order that the integrity and separate entity of the State is preserved for ever as heretofore ensured by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I wish to attach the highest measure of importance to detailing some account of what the State Manipur is-I mean the State and people, whom you now represent and on whose better administration, you are now out to embark.
Historical Background

To begin with, I feel a sudden emotion in my heart-I mean the sweet reminiscences of the past history of Manipur. Let the patriots fight for today. I will see that yesterday shines once more before the people ignorant of the beauty of yesterday. I am sure, a look back to the history of our land will at once inspire your mind towards greater and nobler deeds to prove your worth as worthy sons of worthy fathers.

Look the sweet and green valley with the sweeter and greener hills all round along the easternmost part of India—a smiling land, hallowed by footprints of heroes and admired as the Switzerland of India by strangers. It is Manipur, a salubrious land of hoary antiquity—a land of gems. Geographically, it is singularly isolated from the rest of India. Strategically, nature impresses on her a stamp of unity by fully encircling her with lofty mountains and hills making it an impregnable fortress and bulwark of defence doing the sentinel for the millions in India. She was a star in the eastern political firmament of India. Strong nations of the world covet her natural position. Such is Manipur.

Read her political history from 24 A. D. She had her dominion over a wide area extending as far as the southern portion of China in the north, the gold mines in the Sivasagar valley, the river Chindwin in the east and south, and
Chandra pore (Cachar) in the west. Her present area is 8,650 square miles plus 7,000 square miles of the Kabaw valley, including 7,900 square miles of the hills. Read the war operations of Maharaja Garibniwaza in 1711, which shows how far the spirit of heroism and independence ran rampant in the veins of our forefathers. Read the Treaty of Maharaja Gourashyam and Mr. Verelst of the East India Company at Chittagong on the 14th September 1762, which shows the vast wealth and economic status of Manipur. Read the Treaty of Yandaboo, dated the 9th January 1834 ratified between Maharaja Gambhir Singh and the Company. This Treaty left for us a good heritage, namely the Kabaw valley of 7,000 square miles for which we now get from Burma Rs. 6,270 as annual tribute which according to the spirit of the terms of the Agreement, will cease when the area is riverted to our State. Maharaja Gambhir Singh died of disappointment for this loss of territory under duress. Sreejit Nara Singh’s role in redeeming Manipur from Burma, when she was devastated and dismembered for 7 years was very great. Manipur was thus, by reason of her vast territories and economic resources, self-supporting as a self-contained unit. Her sphere of influence and mercantile activities was very wide. During the British rule, foreign goods gave a dulling effect to the indigenous products by dumping operations. Now is the best time to revive all these vanquished industries. Attempts are now being made to recover the losses of
territories as in Cachar under duress.

Unity of Hill and Valley

All these times when Manipur was in the height of her power, "Hill and Valley were one; and this oneness defended Manipur against all invasions and thus, she could maintain her independence upto 1891, when the rest of India had already been conquered by the British. British conquest of this land resulted from the slackened unity between the Valley and Hills. Now, since the withdrawal of British paramountcy after 56 years' rule, we have reinforced the union of Hill and Valley; and best opportunities have reached us in order to work hand-in-hand towards achieving the common object of progress and national prosperity. The relation has become one of complete understanding and active sympathy; and it must be so, for Manipur is one and the hopes and aspirations of Hill and Valley are identical.

Manipur's Position in the Dominion of India

These are great days; great destinies are gathering momentum; great ideas are occupying the hearts of men and great causes have aroused great enthusiasms and great sacrifices. Amid the interplay of world forces India comes out stronger than before and Manipur too as a component part is the same with the removal of artificial
hedge between Hill and Valley. I believe the sons of Manipur will be alive to it. In the large galaxy of heroes in the imperishable roll of honour, there were and there are now and there will never cease to be, beloved Manipuri names testifying to the fact that our people would rather die unsullied than outlive the disgrace of surrender to any measure that work prejudicial to the preservation of the separate entity of the State, while fostering the good and cordial relations with the Dominion of India. I am confident that the members of the Assembly will please see that this fair record is never breached.

**State Finance Based in a Sound Economic Planning**

A strong government means a government with a strong financial infrastructure. In order to ensure finance, a well thought out economic planning is necessary. I lay special stress on it, for a totally unplanned economy is a totally unplanned nation. I invite your attention to the inevitability of this economic planning so that you may be prepared to cope with it before the State finance assumes threatening proportions. The inexhaustible sources of her economic potentialities are already there, as it is provided by nature. What is only wanting is the *modus operandi* for increased productivity. The people will have to cultivate thriftiness, since the present rate of the flowing out of people's money
in exchange of less important articles will jeopardize, at no distant date, the economic status of the individuals constituting the nation.

If the entire area of the State is properly explored and the sources are tapped, there is every possibility of the State's having one crore of rupees as annual income enabling us at the same time to produce all our requirements. Places like Jiribam and Moreh, if properly industrialised with the running of saw-mills, cotton mills, paper mills, etc., will bring huge incomes to the State. Manipur has been declared the best place for installing hydro-electric plants. There are points which can feed the entire Assam with hydro-electric power on commercial basis too. There should be industrial Centers at strategic places-Hill and Valley-equipped with modern techniques and modern technology. I shall be glad to see Hill towns properly electrified, springing up. I desire that prior consideration be given to the construction of roads in the hills in order to facilitate communications. There are now only one lakh of paris of land thrown open to cultivation. There is ten times the space still available for agricultural operations. Plantation of betelnut, tea and jute also may be introduced successfully in the now neglected but fertile soils. Export should outpace the import. During my long tours in the hills, I was deeply impressed with the yet surviving cottage industries which can stand any competition. The
consequences of the war heavily told upon the raw materials. Charkha and handlooms have been the essential marriage gifts to our mothers and sisters. In redressing economic problems these should be developed. As regards the raw materials, eastern Kasom still stands a living testimony. Khaddar is not a new thing here but rather-I should say-it originated from Manipur. The silk industry from cocoons is a long standing industry here. The Muga of Khurkhul remains unrivalled and unapproached in India. Rural reconstruction schemes be implemented in order to achieve all-round progress.

**Education**

Prior consideration should ago be given to education. I wish to see at least a High School in each of the Tehsils and important centres in the hills with good communications. While pursuing our future educational policy, we should be prepared to select more practical courses to suit the mode of our national life. Indigenous science of medicine and treatment should also be promoted. Fine Arts also has received the appreciation of the world. It attracted the world-poet Rabindranath Tagore also. Sir Akbar Hydari, His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, also highly encouraged it.
Our Part in the Individual and Collective Responsibility for Frontier Protection and Defence of Manipur in Particular

Manipur should be made militarily strong as, in the contemporary world, militia is the noblest estate of mankind. In the history and accounts of 1874, written by Col. Johnstone, you will come across that Manipuri nation constituted the best armies in the world. In January 1947, I apprised India Government through the Chamber of Princes, of the need for a strong Eastern frontier protecting military installations in order to safeguard Manipur in particular and India as a whole, as a result of the withdrawal of British paramountcy from India and Burma. But India Government has not yet communicated their final plan in this matter.

Now as from today, you have joined responsible government. I feel it my duty to point out, in the interest of this country and Commonwealth that it should be our individual and collective responsibility to work out a scheme for frontier protection, in collaboration with the Central Government. The present situation calls for immediate action in this respect. Since we are sincere, I am confident that the Central Government will give us proper and timely assistance with subsidies and finance and equipment. In the meantime with what little finance, we have, we should raise. Our small
force to an efficient standard as home-guard without further delay. The inherent warlike spirit of the Manipuris should be maintained for the noble cause of India. Peace here in Manipur will be a fine contribution to India Government, while they are moulding India's destiny to enable her to stand up as one of the most powerful nations in the world.

The paramount importance of the strategic location of Manipur for defence and security reasons of India deserves the careful attention of enlightened governments; and we should be mindful of the benefits that we may render to our Dominion from her position, if we seriously depend on it.

Time is now roughly going on in the world and as such, it is a critical phase of Manipur too. Nevertheless, it is the best time for you to serve your mother-country while she needs and to prove that you are her worthy sons. You are to show to the world and to your people, the achievements or progress of the welfare of the people under this new government with clear results of a change for the better. Otherwise, the name "Responsible Government" may not be worth the name and the next step will be for the Constitutional Ruler to judge.
Our Guiding Principles

We should not forget that we are Manipuris, destined to live in Manipur and die in Manipur. Providence has bound our fates together indissolubly.

Leaders of the nation while undertaking to finance economic planning-long and short-for the material progress of the country in the nearest future, I want to make it a watchword that the means of increasing the State revenues from other sources are devised without causing hardship or burden to the people. I expect that every one of you, as a part of his obligation, will take care to acquaint himself with the mode of life on hills too by studying the four walls of the territory of Manipur; he is now going to govern. Send students abroad to foreign lands that they may bring back knowledge with which they may do service to her, but they should not bring ideas and ways of life that do not always conform to the environment of Manipur.

I wish to see you all becoming great and noble—not for your own sake but noble for the country—to make Manipur great, a greater Manipur to enable her to stand up with head erect among the nations, as she did in the past. Work that Manipur may prosper. Suffer that Manipur may rejoice. Unite that Manipur may be strong.
Do the right that you may be brave. Whether you use pen or tongue, let your hearts be pure; and your resolve, mainly. The prosperity of a nation does not depend on the number of buildings, but it depends on the number of men of character – that is, radiant man of well-disciplined mould. I shall always remain aglow with the splendour of destiny of our people.

In fine, I call upon you all to take this as your motto and to join with me in a fervent prayer for the well-being of our Motherland.

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MANIPUR MERGER AGREEMENT, 1949 TO NORTH-EASTERN AREAS (REORGANISATION) ACT, 1971